



*BOROUGH OF BANBURY*

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

and

**Chief Public Health Inspector**

**For the Year**

**1956**





**BOROUGH OF BANBURY**

*Mayor-*

**ALDERMAN CHARLES ENMOTT, J. P. .**

*Deputy Mayor-*

**ALDERMAN G. D. M. BRAGGINS, C. C.**

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**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

*Chairman* - COUNCILLOR J. PORTERGILL.

*Vice-Chairman* - COUNCILLOR T. AULD.

ALDERMAN HASKINS.

COUNCILLOR GILKES.

COUNCILLOR MISS BUSTIN.

COUNCILLOR LOVE.

COUNCILLOR CLARIDGE.

COUNCILLOR PLUMB.

COUNCILLOR DAWSON.

COUNCILLOR MRS. WALKLETT.

COUNCILLOR FOUNTAIN.

COUNCILLOR WALKLETT.

*Town Clerk and Clerk of Peace* - F. G. E. BOYS, Solicitor.

**STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

*Medical Officer of Health.*

A. J. CAMPBELL., B.Sc. (Oxon), M.D. (St. And.), D.P.H., Barrister -  
at - Law, Middle Temple.

*Chief Public Health Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector.*

F. APPLEYARD, D.P.A. (Lond), F.R.S.H., A.M.I.S.E., M.I.H. (Hons).,  
M.A.P.H.I.

*Senior Additional Public Health Inspector and Certified Meat Inspector.*

C. R. PALING M.A.P.H.I.

*Additional Public Health Inspectors and Certified Meat Inspectors.*

D. H. HIBBERT, M.A.P.H.I.

H. PHILLIPS, M.A.P.H.I.

*Clerk.*

Miss J. G. Rix. (Shorthand Typist)

*Inspector under the Diseases of Animals Act and Orders.*

G. Stevens.

*Rodent Officer and Disinfection Officer.*

G. Lampitt.

*Manager of Public Slaughterhouse.*

T. W. Pargeter.

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**To the Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the  
Borough of Banbury.**

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, -

I beg to submit my twentieth Annual Report, which records the Health Services of the Borough during 1956. The report was prepared in accordance with the requirements of Circular 19/56 of the Ministry of Health.

**Vital Statistics.**

The vital statistics for the Borough appear to be satisfactory and compare favourably with those of the country as a whole.

The Birth Rate in 1956 was 16.5 compared with 14.4 in 1955 and 15.7 in England and Wales. The Still Birth Rate was 18. (England and Wales 23).

The Illegitimate Birth Rate was 56 (England and Wales 46).

The Death Rate was 10.6 as compared with 11.6 in 1955 and 11.7 in England and Wales.

The chief causes of death were:-

Heart Disease (including Coronary Thrombosis)	78
Cancer	32
Vascular Diseases of Nervous System	29
Other Diseases of the Circulation	10
Pneumonia	9

Heart Disease including Coronary Thrombosis is by far the commonest cause of death, Cancer being the second - with less than half the number of cases. The commonest site was Cancer of Lung (7 cases compared with 4 in 1955). The importance of cigarette smoking in this connection was emphasised in last year's report and it is suggested that the time has now come when advice should be given to young people not to take up smoking. This is particularly necessary in view of the suggestion that smoking in school children is increasing. An investigation with regard to this is at present being carried out in Oxfordshire.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 28.2 per 1000 births as compared with 23.8 for England and Wales.

**Housing.**

During the year 62 houses were represented as unfit - 54 in 10 Clearance Areas and 8 individual unfit houses. It is hoped to represent the remaining part of the first year's programme - about 40 houses - in 1957. Details of the position with regard to housing are given in Section D of the report.

**Infectious Diseases.**

The incidence of infectious disease in the Borough in 1956 was the lowest for many years. - 7 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 cases of Sonne Dysentery occurred. There were no cases of Poliomyelitis in 1956.

Immunisation for Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis is now carried out at the School Clinic.

#### **Food Hygiene.**

No cases of food poisoning occurred in 1956. Nevertheless it is necessary to repeat the warning given in the 1955 report that special vigilance and care must be taken by all who handle food. This is emphasised in the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and, as a result, Public Health Inspectors are now required to visit school and factory canteens, children's and old people's homes as well as shops, hotels and restaurants.

1982 visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors to food premises in 1956, and valuable educational work has been done during the course of these inspections. In addition, the Chief Public Health Inspector has given a number of lectures and informal talks.

#### **Staff.**

During the year the staff of the Public Health Department has remained unchanged.

Under the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation) Act, 1956, the Sanitary Inspectors became Public Health Inspectors as from 2nd August 1956.

Again I should like to pay tribute to the work of the Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. F. Appleyard, for the capable and efficient administration of his department and to his staff for their loyal support. I should also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee, the Town Clerk, and other officers of the Council for their valuable co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

A J. CAMPBELL

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION A.

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	...	...	...	...	5,051 acres.
Population (1951 Census)	...	...	...	...	18,917
Population (1956 Estimated Reg. Gen)	...	...	...	...	19,330
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£303,593
Product of Penny rate	...	...	...	...	£1,100

### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1956.

#### Live Births.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	149	152	301
Illegitimate	...	...	...	11	7	18
			Total:	160	159	319

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population... 16.5  
(England and Wales - 15.7)

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE ... 56.  
(England and Wales - 46.)

#### Stillbirths.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	...	4	2	6
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-

RATE per 1,000 (Live and Stillbirths) ... 18.  
(England and Wales - 23 - per 1000)

#### Deaths.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	...	...	...	98	108	206

DEATH RATE per 1,000 of Estimated Population... 10.6  
(England and Wales - 11.7)

#### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

				Number.	Rate.
All Infants per 1,000 live Births.	...	...	...	9	28.2
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate					
Live Births	...	...	...	8	26.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate					
Live Births	...	...	...	1	55.
			(England and Wales - 23 8)		

#### Causes of Death of Infants under One Year of Age.

Causes: Legitimate:	Prematurity	...	3
	Cerebral Haemorrhage		3
	Atalectasis	...	1
	Congenital Abnormalities		1
Illegitimate:	Prematurity	...	1

## Causes of Death, 1956.

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis - respiratory ...	-	1	1
3 Syphilitic disease ...	-	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach ...	2	4	6
11. Malignant Neoplasm - Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7
12. Malignant Neoplasm - Breast ...	-	4	4
13. Malignant Neoplasm - Uterus ...	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic Neoplasms	8	6	14
16. Diabetes ...	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of Nervous System	8	21	29
18. Coronary disease, Angina ...	23	14	37
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	2	3
20. Other Heart Disease ...	16	22	38
21. Other Circulatory Disease ...	6	4	10
22. Influenza ...	1	4	5
23. Pneumonia ...	3	6	9
24. Bronchitis ...	4	1	5
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	2	4
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	2	-	2
29. Hypertension of prostate ...	1	-	1
31. Congenital malformations ...	-	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	10	19
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents... ...	3	-	3
34. All other accidents ...	1	-	1
35. Suicide ...	2	2	4
	<u>98</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>206</u>

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	...	32
Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	...	-
Measles (all ages) ...	...	-

## Classification of Cancer Deaths.

	M.	F.		M.	F.
Breast	-	4	Stomach	2	4
Uterus		1	Other Sites	8	6
Lung	6	1			

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### 1. Staff of the Public Health Department.

A list of members of the staff of the Public Health Department is given at the beginning of this report.

#### (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory work for the Borough is carried out at:-

- (a) The Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford.
- (b) Horton General Hospital, Banbury.
- (c) Counties Public Health Laboratory, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. (Water Examinations only.)

The greater part of the work is now carried out at the Horton General Hospital.

Full details of this are not available.

#### **(b) Nursing in the Home.**

Facilities are provided by the County Council under Section 25, National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the Oxfordshire Nursing Federation.

#### **(c) Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

CLINIC	PLACE	TIME
1. Maternity & Child Welfare Clinic.	School Clinic Warwick Road.	Tuesday and Friday 2.30 p.m.
2. Ante-Natal Clinic.	Neithrop Hospital Warwick Road.	Wednesday morning by appointment.
3. School Clinic.	School Clinic.	Each Weekday 9 a.m. also Tuesday 2 p.m.
4. Child Guidance Clinic	" "	Thursday 10.30 a.m.
5. Speech Clinic.	" "	Wednesday 10 a.m.
6. Eye Clinic.	Horton Hospital.	Wednesday 10 a.m.
7. Orthopaedic Clinic	" "	Thursdays (1st and 3rd) 2.30 p.m.
8. Tuberculosis Clinic	" "	Thursday 1 p.m.
9. V.D. Clinic.	Radcliffe Infirmary Oxford.	Males - Wed. 6 p.m. Sat. 3 p.m. Females - Mon. 6 p.m. Wed. 3 p.m.
10. Diphtheria Immunisation	School Clinic Warwick Road.	Every Tuesday 3 p.m.
11. Whooping Cough Immunisation	" "	Every Tuesday 3 p.m.

**Puerperal Pyrexia** - 3 cases occurred during the year.

**Maternal Deaths** - There were no maternal deaths during the year.

#### **Illegitimate Children.**

There were 18 illegitimate births during the year. Of these 1 died before reaching the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 55 per 1,000 as against 26.2 for legitimate children.

#### **National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.**

No action has been necessary in the Borough during the year.



## SECTION C

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

#### 1. Water Supply.

Water for the Borough was, up to the end of 1946, supplied by the Banbury Water Company but, during that year, a Bill was passed by Parliament under which the Town Council acquired the undertaking as from the 1st January, 1947 (Banbury Corporation Act, 1946.)

The water supply is from the River Cherwell at Grimsbury and the Sor Brook at Bodicote; it is treated by settlement filtration and chlorination. During 1956 the supply was constant and sufficient.

During the year 62 samples of water were taken for chemical and bacteriological examination. All were reported to be satisfactory and suitable for a public supply.

With the exception of a few houses on the outskirts of the town (21 separate premises), all are on the public supply.

#### 2. Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year substantial progress was made in the carrying out of the new surface water drainage scheme and the sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for the Borough. Both these schemes, when completed, will be very great improvements from the Public Health angle and will provide facilities for the natural expansion of the Borough as well as bringing the sewerage disposal arrangements up-to-date. Drainage work carried out under the supervision of the Department during 1956 included:-

Drains cleared of obstruction ...	34
Drains repaired or relaid ...	19
Soilpipes repaired ...	1
Inspection chambers provided ...	2

#### 3. Rivers and Streams.

The Thames Conservancy Board exercises general supervision over the rivers and streams in the Borough. The water-courses conveying storm water received attention from the Public Health Inspectors during the year and some cleansing of water-courses was carried out.

#### 4. Closet Accommodation.

Practically all the dwelling-houses in the Borough are provided with water closets, except a few on the extreme outskirts of the town where the water carriage system is not available. Improvements to closet accommodation carried out as a result of the work of the Public Health Inspectors were:-

W.C. Compartments repaired...	...	...	42
W.C. Compartments cleansed ...	...	...	29
W.C. Pedestals provided ...	...	...	14
W.C. cisterns provided ...	...	...	15
Elsan closets provided (on building sites etc.)			2

## 5. Public Cleansing.

This work is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor and has been well maintained during the year.

## 6. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Particulars of the work of the Public Health Inspectors are given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector at the end of this report.

# SECTION D.

## HOUSING.

The year under review was one of considerable activity in the field of housing and, following a decision by the Housing Committee of the Corporation to allocate 60 houses for the re-housing of families living in proposed Clearance Areas, 62 houses were represented - 54 of these comprising 10 Clearance Areas and 8 being individual unfit houses. Following these representations, the Corporation submitted to the Ministry 3 proposed Clearance Orders (18 houses) and 7 proposed Compulsory Purchase Orders (36 houses) and, in addition, arrangements were made for the demolition of 4 of the individual unfit houses and for the closure of the remaining 4 premises.

It is hoped to represent the remaining part of our first year's programme - about 40 houses - early in 1957 and, at the time of preparing this report, detailed reports on these further proposals were ready for submission to the Corporation.

Apart from this work on the five-year programme, a good deal of housing repair work was again carried out as a result of the work of the Public Health Inspectors - 284 houses being dealt with under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Housing Act, 1936, during the period under review. In addition to this remedial work, 4 houses - represented as unfit in previous years - were permanently closed for human habitation during 1956.

The records show that since 1946 the following work has been accomplished in the Borough under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(a) Houses demolished by formal and informal action	27
(b) Houses permanently closed following formal or informal action ... ..	32
(c) Houses repaired or reconditioned under Section 9:-	
(1) By owners ... ..	520
(2) By the Local Authority in default of owners	31
(d) Houses represented under the Five Year Slum Clearance Programme ... ..	62

## SECTION E.

### INSPECTION OF MEAT, MILK AND OTHER FOODS.

#### (a) Milk Supply.

Since the coming into operation of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, the Corporation's duties with respect to milk supply has been mainly concerned with the distribution side, the responsibility for the supervision of milk production now being in the hands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, whilst the responsibility for supervising milk pasteurisation plants is dealt with by the County Council.

The work of the Public Health Department in this connection therefore, during 1956, has been mainly in connection with the inspection of dairies and the sampling of milk. 45 visits of inspection were recorded and 72 samples of milk have been taken.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/54 and the Milk (Special Designations), (Pasteurised and Sterilised) Milk Regulations, 1949/54, the following licences were granted by the Corporation :-

Dealers' Licences (T.T. Milk)	...	5
Dealers' Licences (Pasteurised Milk)		2
Dealers' Licences (Sterilised Milk)		1

Routine milk sampling was maintained throughout the year and the following statistics show the number and results of the samples taken:-

Type of Milk	Samples Taken.	Samples Satisfactory.
Tuberculin Tested (Past.)	24	24
Pasteurised	<u>48</u>	<u>48</u>
	72	72
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So far as is known, practically all the milk passing through the town's dairies is now rendered safe by pasteurisation and it is reasonable to conclude that the town's milk supply is at present highly satisfactory.

#### (b) Meat Inspection.

During 1956, as in the nine previous years, every animal slaughtered for human food in the Borough was inspected prior to sale and, in the period under review, the carcasses, parts of carcasses and offal detailed in the table below were condemned and surrendered: -



	CATTLE		SHEEP		PIGS		CALVES	
Total number of Animals Slaughtered and Inspected.	1061		4912		5025		97	
	No.	Weight	No.	Weight.	No.	Weight.	No.	Weight.
<b>Carcases Condemned:-</b>								
Tuberculosis	2	840	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Diseases	1	600	2	140	4	530	4	253
<b>TOTALS (A)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1440</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Parts of Carcasses &amp; Organs condemned:-</b>								
Meat	-	1764	-	135	-	158	-	2
Total Offal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Livers	170	2228	41	84	72	211	-	-
Lungs	58	598	81	112	530	828	1	4
Heads	49	1256	-	-	94	1067	-	-
Tongues	49	343	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spleens	8	15	-	-	1	2	-	-
Intestines	12	164	1	5	20	144	-	-
Kidneys	3	14	-	-	2	4	-	-
Mes. Fat.	9	67	1	5	11	24	-	-
Skirts	12	24	-	-	-	-	-	-
Plucks	-	-	4	19	33	200	-	-
Hearts	7	37	-	-	68	59	-	-
<b>TOTALS (B)</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>6510</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>2697</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>
Total weight (a) & (b) in lbs.	-	7950	-	500	-	3227	-	259

The following table in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives further details of the incidence of tuberculosis, cysticercosis and other diseases occurring in food animals slaughtered and inspected in the Borough during 1956:-

**Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.**

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP & LAMBS	PIGS	HORSES
Number killed (if known)	1048	13	97	4912	5025	-
Number inspected	1048	13	97	4912	5025	-
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	4	2	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	280	7	3	127	715	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	26.8%	53.8%	7.2%	2.6%	14.3%	-
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53	2	-	-	117	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.2%	15.4%	-	-	2.3%	-
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	-	-	-	-	-
Carcase submitted to treatment by refrigeration	12	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

**(c) Other Foods.**

The following other articles of food were inspected and surrendered as being unfit for human consumption during the year:-

**TINNED FOODS.**

Tinned Meat	184 Tins
Tinned Fish	15 Tins
Tinned Milk	68 Tins
Tinned Vegetables	194 Tins
Tinned Fruit	349 Tins
Tinned Soup	10 Tins
Tinned Jam	6 Tins
Tinned Steak	31 Tins
Tinned Corned Beef	13 Tins
Tinned Tomatoes	249 Tins
Tinned Fruit Juices	4 Tins
Tinned Tongue	7 Tins
Tinned Pudding	1 Tins
Miscellaneous	11 Tins



## SUNDRIES.

Wet Fish	...	...	...	119 lbs.
Sausages	...	...	...	14½ lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	49½ lbs.
Ham	...	...	...	65 lbs.
Corned Beef	...	...	...	96 lbs.
Margarine	...	...	...	1½ lbs.

### **Food Poisoning Outbreaks.**

No cases of Food Poisoning occurred in the Borough during 1956.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

Following the decontrol of meat and livestock in June, 1954, the Corporation took over the lease of the Banbury Centralised Slaughterhouse in Swan Close Road, Banbury, as from the 1st July, 1954, and these premises are now being used as a Public Abattoir. There are no other licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough, the Corporation having determined not to grant or renew any such licences in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(2) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954, by the terms of a resolution approved in September, 1954.

The Corporation has provided the necessary staff of slaughtermen at the Swan Close Road premises and the abattoir, which is supervised by a manager, working under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector, has functioned most satisfactorily both from the public health angle and from the point of view of the butchers in Banbury and the surrounding area. Details of the work carried out during 1956 appear in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

### **Clean Food Campaigns.**

As will be seen from the annual report of the Chief Public Health Inspector, 1982 visits to food premises were made by the Public Health Inspectors during the year and, considerable educational work, of the utmost value, was carried out in the course of these routine inspections.

In addition, although no organised course of lectures dealing especially with Clean Food was given during the year, informal talks to various local organisations were given by the Chief Public Health Inspector and on these occasions opportunity was taken to emphasise the importance of Clean Food.

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955/6.

Following the coming into operation of the above Regulations in January, 1956, the Public Health Inspectors commenced a new survey of all food premises in the area with a view to ensuring compliance with the new requirements and good progress has been made in this regard during 1956 as shown by the following statistics :-

(a) No. of inspections made of food premises	...	1277
(b) No. of informal notices served requiring the remedying of defects and contraventions	...	115
(c) No. of premises improved	...	45
(d) No. of improvements effected	...	136

Full details of this work will be found in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector and, apart from the 45 premises already improved, work is at present in progress at several other food premises in the area.

A most valuable part of this work has been the opportunity it has given to the Inspectors for educational work amongst food traders and their staffs during the course of their inspections and I feel that the time spent on this work has been well worth while. During the year also the Chief Public Health Inspector had the opportunity of addressing the Banbury and District Grocers' Association on the requirements of the new Regulations and, in talks given to other bodies, he took the opportunity of stressing this side of the work of the Department.

During the period of the Annual Fair in October, 1956, special attention was paid to the requirements of the new Regulations and it is pleasing to note that the proprietors of food stalls at the fair were found to be conscious of their new responsibilities and that they did their best to comply with the various requirements - the standard of hygiene being much higher than in any previous year.

### FOOD PREMISES

The following statistics, required by the Ministry, are given in respect of food premises in the Borough:-

#### (1) No. of Food Premises on record.

Bakehouses	...	...	...	15
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	21
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens	...	...	...	56
Confectioners and Sweet Shops	...	...	...	24
Dairies	...	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	...	5
Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	5
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	13
Greengrocers Shops	...	...	...	16
Grocers and General Shops	...	...	...	55
Public Houses and Licensed Premises	...	...	...	63

**(2) No. of Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.**

(a) For the manufacture or storage of ice cream ...	101
(b) For the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food ...	17

**(3) No. of Dairies Registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:-**

5

**(4) No. of inspections of Registered Food Premises.**

(Full details of this work are recorded in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.)

**(5) Method of Disposal of Condemned Food.**

Generally by disposal at the Corporation's refuse tip.

**SECTION F.**

**PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year 1956.

DISEASE	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED	ADMITTED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL	TOTAL DEATHS
Scarlet Fever	7	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	9	3	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	4	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-
	22	7	-

**AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIED CASES**

Age over	0	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65
and under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65	
DISEASE												
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	1	1	-	1	-	4	1	-	1	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	1	1	2	2	-	9	2	1	4	-	-	-

### Scarlet Fever.

7 cases occurred during the year all of which were treated at home. 4 cases occurred in school children, 3 in children under school age and none in adults.

### Whooping Cough.

1 case occurred during the year,

No. of children immunised at School Clinic:- 32

### Diphtheria

No cases of Diphtheria occurred during the year. There have been no cases in the Borough since 1950.

### Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following figures show the cases immunised at the School Clinic, Warwick Road:-

Under 5 years ...	...	23
School Children	...	66
Re-inforcement Doses	...	127

### TUBERCULOSIS

	New cases				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1 to 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 15	1	6	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 25	1	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
	11	18	2	-	-	1	-	-

As a result of the visit of the Mass Radiography Unit to Banbury in April, 1956, 6708 films were taken. 11 cases of active disease were discovered and 12 cases of inactive disease.



# BOROUGH OF BANBURY

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1956  
Part 1 of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors.)

Premises	Number of			
	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local Authorities ...	20	19	1	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	136	271	16	-
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	11	5	1	-
TOTAL:	167	295	18	-

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				
	Found	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector.	No. of Prosecutions.
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
San Conveniences (Sec. 7) Insufficient	2	2	-	-	-
San Conveniences (Sec 7) unsuitable or defective	15	15	-	1	-
Other offences.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL:	18	18	-	1	-

3. Outworkers.

No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec. 119(1) (c) ... 11  
(All outworkers engaged in making of wearing apparel)  
No. of cases of default in supplying lists ... ..  
No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises ... ..



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1956.

To the Worshipful the Mayor the Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Banbury.

MR MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my eleventh annual report which contains details of the work of your Public Health Inspectors for the year 1956 together with some comments on the various duties performed

As in former years, the main emphasis of our work was in respect of housing and the supervision of food supplies and food premises but, in spite of the calls made upon our time by these very important duties, it was possible to maintain the general routine work of the Department in other directions. The year was, however a particularly busy one and, at the moment, it is not possible to visualise any lessening of the pressure. Indications are, in fact, to the contrary and point to increased duties and added responsibility rather than to any diminution of our work.

The year reviewed in this report was noteworthy because of the coming into operation of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955; the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and for the placing on the Statute Book of the Clean Air Act, 1956. This new legislation is of the utmost importance and has increased, and will increase still further, our activities in these particular spheres. The statistics contained in this report indicate the increased attention given to these matters and illustrate the ever-widening field of the work of a modern Public Health Department.

Another matter for special comment was the commencement of work in connection with the Corporation's five-year programme of slum clearance and increased attention to the repair and reconditioning of houses. In both of these phases of housing work good progress was made and much valuable work was either completed or set in motion.

The only other comment which, I feel, calls for special mention in this brief introduction is in respect of the duties laid upon the Department in the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders. With the ever-increasing trade of the local cattle market and the continuous flow of new Orders and Regulations from the Ministry, these duties have become one of the major features of the Department's work and, in spite of the employment of a full-time officer for these duties, considerable pressure is being placed upon the Department and upon your Chief Inspector who is, of necessity, "on call" at any time throughout the year in respect of this work.

Finally, in concluding this introduction to my report, I should be failing in my duty if I did not, once again, record my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee of the Corporation for their support, courtesy and the interest they have shown in the work of the Department. I am also much indebted to the Medical Officer of Health, the Town Clerk and the other Chief Officers of the Corporation for their help and co-operation at all times and, perhaps, most of all, my thanks are due to my own staff for their work and their loyal co-operation. Without their efficient and willing service I should not be able to present this further record of a most satisfactory year's work.

I am, Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD.

Chief Public Health Inspector

April 1957.

# VISITS AND INSPECTIONS MADE, 1956

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

Houses inspected	...	...	...	331
Vermineous premises	...	...	...	30
Infectious Disease enquiries	...	...	...	13
Drainage Inspections	...	...	...	267
Re-visits and work in progress	...	...	...	821
Van dwellings	...	...	...	182
Smoke abatement	...	...	...	118
Streams and watercourses	...	...	...	39
Vacant land and refuse dumps	...	...	...	75
Canal boats	...	...	...	4
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	6
Public houses - conveniences	...	...	...	135
Refuse accommodation	...	...	...	55
Cesspools	...	...	...	27

## Housing Act.

Houses inspected and recorded	...	...	144
Re-visits and work in progress	...	...	1310
Clearance Areas	...	...	44
Improvement grant applications	...	...	10

## Factories Act

Factories inspected	...	...	276
Workplaces inspected	...	...	14
Outworkers premises inspected	...	...	5

## Shops Act

Shops inspected (health and comfort provisions)	...	...	309
Shops inspected (closing hours and records)	...	...	119
Shops re-inspected	...	...	22

## Food and Drugs Act.

Bakehouses	...	...	57
General food shops	...	...	574
Fried fish shops	...	...	17
Food preparing premises	...	...	123
Slaughterhouse	...	...	527
Knackers yard	...	...	6
Public Houses	...	...	85
Public Markets	...	...	134
Food inspection visits	...	...	95
Restaurants and cafes	...	...	138
Ice-cream premises	...	...	77
Food vehicles	...	...	30
Dairies	...	...	45
Milk sampling visits	...	...	48
Ice-cream sampling visits	...	...	26

## Miscellaneous.

Rats and mice	...	...	205
Swimming Pools	...	...	8

Cinemas and Public halls	3
Diseases of Animals Act	493
Interviews with owners and builders	1148
Keeping of animals	82
Miscellaneous visits	764
Pet Animals Act visits	28
Rag Flock Act Visits	2
Total visits and inspections made	<u>9071</u>

#### NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH 1956

Type of Notice.	Out- standing 31. 12. 55	Served 1956	Complied with 1956	Out- standing 31. 12. 56
Public Health Act-prelim	28	213	196	45
Public Health Act- Statutory	30	32	43	19
Housing Act-Prelim	36	13	44	5
Housing Act-Statutory	19	-	1	18
Factories Act-Informal	5	38	38	5
Shops Act - Informal	5	4	6	3
Food and Drugs Act- Informal	18	115	103	30
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act-Informal	1	1	2	-
Milk and Dairies Regulations Informal	-	-	-	-
Canal Boats Regulations Informal	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	142	416	433	125

#### SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED, NOTICES COMPLIED WITH, DEFECTS REMEDIED AND PREMISES IMPROVED 1956

	Public Health and Housing Acts	Food and Drugs Act	Factories Act	Misc Acts and Reg.	Totals
Inspections made	3611	1982	295	3183	9071
Notices served	258	115	38	5	416
Notices complied with	284	103	38	8	433
Defects remedied	926	142	36	10	1114
Premises improved	284	45	18	7	354



# NUISANCES ABATED AND DEFECTS REMEDIED, 1956.

## (a) Dwelling Houses

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	54
External walls re-pointed	...	...	93
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	27
Eaves gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	39
Dampness abated generally	...	...	23
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	44
Ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	30
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	43
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	131
Fireplaces and cooking ranges repaired or renewed			11
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	6
Sinks repaired, renewed or provided	...	...	2
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed		...	12
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	17
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	1
New sashcords to windows provided	...	...	74
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	23
Doors and woodwork repaired or renewed		...	50
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	42
Yards and passages paved or repaired	...	...	12
Dangerous walls rebuilt	...	...	8
Additional light or ventilation provided		...	8
Rooms cleansed and re-decorated	...	...	39
Handrails provided in staircases	...	...	1
Houses closed	...	...	4
Drains cleared of obstructions	...	...	32
Drains repaired or renewed	...	...	16
Inspection chambers provided to drains		...	4
Soil pipes, vent. shafts, etc., repaired		...	2
W.C. Compartments repaired and cleansed		...	31
W.C. Pedestals provided	...	...	13
New dustbins provided	...	...	16
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	1
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	15
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	20
Sewage pump repaired	...	...	1
Elsan closets provided to caravans	...	...	1

## (b) Shops Acts

Water closets cleansed and repaired	...	...	1
Notices re Early Closing Day exhibited	...		1
Notices re Assistants' Half Holiday exhibited	...		1
Abstract of Act provided	...	...	2
Young persons records kept	...	...	4
Notices re seats exhibited	...	...	1

## (c) Factories

Water closets cleansed, repaired, etc	...	...	26
W.Cs. marked for sexes	...	...	2
Choked drains cleared	...	...	2
Elsan closets provided on building sites	...		2
Artificial light provided to W.Cs.	...	...	2
Intervening ventilated space provided to W.C.			2



**(d) Bakehouses**

Water closets repaired and cleansed	2
Bakehouses cleansed and redecorated	2
Structural repairs completed	1
Flour stores cleansed and redecorated	2
Sink provided	1
Outdoor clothing storage facilities provided	1
Floors, etc., cleansed	2

**(e) Dairies.**

Dairies cleansed and re-decorated	3
W.C. compartment cleansed	1

**(f) Food Shops and Food Preparing Premises.**

Constant hot water supplies provided	10
Food rooms cleansed and redecorated	20
Food storage facilities improved	2
W.Cs. cleansed and repaired	6
Structural repairs completed	5
Dustbins provided or properly sited	2
Wash basins provided	6
Washing facilities for equipment provided	1
First aid outfits provided	4
Outdoor clothing storage facilities provided	3
Unsatisfactory food premises closed	2
New food factory provided	1
Miscellaneous improvements	7

**(g) Cafes and Public Houses**

Constant hot water supplies provided	6
Rooms and cellars cleansed and redecorated	19
Water closets cleansed and repaired	4
Urinals provided, repaired and suitably screened	4
Structural repairs completed	6
Sinks provided	2
Drainage repairs	2
Flushing apparatus provided to urinals	4
Notices re sex provided to W.Cs	6
Additional W.C. provided	1
Refuse and storage improved	1
Miscellaneous improvements	3

**COMPLAINTS**

During the year, 132 written or verbal complaints were received at the office and these were in respect of the following matters:-

Defective water closets	14
Defective house roofs	10
Choked and defective drains	33
Offensive smells	12
Burst water pipes	8
Inadequate water supply	1
Defective dustbins	5
Dumping of refuse	1

Flooding of cellars	...	...	...	6
Defective gutters and rainwater pipes	...	...	...	3
Defective ranges and fireplaces	...	...	...	1
Verminous or dirty premises	...	...	...	7
Dampness	...	...	...	5
Smoke and Chimney nuisances	...	...	...	6
Nuisances from animals	...	...	...	7
Choked ditch	...	...	...	1
Dangerous structures	...	...	...	1
General defects	...	...	...	11
				-----
				132
				-----

#### **DRAINAGE AND WATER CLOSETS.**

During the period under review, 34 choked drains were dealt with by the Department and, at a further 19 premises, drains were re-constructed or repaired under our supervision - this work including the provision of two new inspection chambers. In addition, several choked sewers were found and, in each case, these received prompt attention after being referred to the Borough Surveyor.

Improvements to sanitary accommodation effected comprised the provision of 1 additional water closet; the repair of 42 water closet compartments; the provision of 14 new pedestal pans and the repair or renewal of 15 flushing cisterns.

In addition to these improvements, 10 washing basins or sinks were provided at various food premises in the area following requests by your inspectors.

#### **INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.**

The incidence of infectious disease was again low during 1956 and, as a consequence, the Public Health Inspectors made only 13 visits of enquiry in respect of notified cases. A report on each of these cases was made to the Medical Officer of Health. Following the occurrence of infectious disease, 27 rooms were disinfected by the Department.

#### **REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.**

As a result of complaints and routine inspections 18 new dustbins were supplied at various premises in the Borough following the service of notices by the Department under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

#### **CANAL BOATS**

Three canal boats were inspected during the year and no contraventions were discovered on any of the boats visited. The boats were found to be kept in a satisfactory state of cleanliness and no infectious disease cases were encountered during the course of the inspections.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT

This field of four activities received a good deal of attention during the year and 118 visits were made by the inspectors in this connection. These visits included the taking of 31 formal observations, advisory visits to factories, in connection with general smoke abatement work and warning visits in respect of occasional bursts of black smoke observed apart from the periods of formal observation.

The formal observations showed an undue amount of black smoke to be emitted on four occasions only - the maximum period being five minutes in the half-hour - but on at least 17 other occasions it was necessary for your officers to take up, with the firms concerned, the matter of excessive smoke emission. The visits made to factories in this connection indicated the main causes of excessive smoke emission to be (a) unsatisfactory stoking of the boilers (b) the use of unsuitable fuel and (c) excessive calls on boilers which were already being worked to their full capacity. In addition, it was found that certain boilers could not be hand-stoked without producing black smoke on some occasions - a defect which will require to be remedied by the firms concerned when the Clean Air Act, 1956, is fully in operation.

In all, nine premises were recorded as "offenders" in respect of smoke emission and, in all these cases, a good deal of time was spent in discussing the trouble with the owners and stokers concerned, in advising them as to steps to be taken to prevent further nuisances and in pointing out to the various managements their likely liability under the new legislation when it comes into operation.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, was not, of course, operative during the year but every effort was made during the normal visits to factories to publicise the Act and to explain the future likely requirements of the new law. This policy has already shown itself to be the right one in so far that work has been put in hand, or is contemplated, at some of the local factories with a view to improving the boiler plants so as to comply with the possible future requirements.

## VAN DWELLINGS.

182 visits of inspection were made to van dwellings in the area during 1956 - 73 of these visits being to caravans coming into the town for the period of the annual Michaelmas Fair.

The persons occupying the fair vehicles comprised 164 adults and 40 children and, once again, I am able to report favourable on the well-maintained and clean condition of these caravans. The inspections made did not reveal any serious cases of overcrowding and no cases of infectious disease.

were discovered during these visits. After the departure of the fair vehicles, inspections of the sites occupied by them showed that efforts had been made to leave the areas used in a clean and tidy condition.

With regard to other caravans in the Borough, I have again to report that, due to further unavoidable delays, the improvements at the Marshes, Southam Road, had not been carried out at the close of the year. At the time of preparing this report, however, work was actively in progress on the site and it is hoped that the various improvements will be completed and the site licenced during 1957.

The other unlicensed site, at Daventry Road, was still occupied by 12 caravans at the end of 1956 and, early in 1957, it was decided to take action to have the site cleared - this action being co-ordinated with the anticipated date of completion of the work at The Marshes.

Temporary licences were granted in respect of several other caravans - on individual sites - although most of these were to persons who were temporarily residing in the area on account of their employment on various building contracts and other similar schemes.

As mentioned last year, the caravan problem still continues to be one of difficulty, as it is in many other areas, and it seems certain that your officers will continue to have a good deal of work in this connection for a very long time to come.

#### **VERMINOUS PREMISES**

As mentioned in recent annual reports, the number of verminous premises dealt with continues to decrease and the year under review showed a similar trend. Twelve rooms, infested by vermin, were disinfested by the Department and your Inspectors made 30 visits of inspection to these premises. In each of the cases dealt with satisfactory results were reported.

#### **RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.**

No applications for registration under the provisions of this Act were received during 1956.

#### **SHOPS ACT, 1950.**

As your Public Health Inspectors are responsible for all the duties under the somewhat complicated provisions of the Shops Act, a fair amount of time is devoted to this work each year. The period covered by this report showed increased attention to this section of our work, 309 shops



being inspected with respect to the "health and comfort" provisions of the Act and 119 visits in relation to closing hours, the employment of young persons and the keeping of records.

Four notices were served in respect of minor contraventions of the Act as a result of the inspections made.

It should be added that there is, of course, some overlapping of our duties under the Shops Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations in respect of food shops and some of the improvements recorded under the latter Regulations could well have been dealt with under Shops legislation.

### HOUSING.

The basic and most onerous duty of your Public Health Officers still continues to be housing work and the period dealt with in this report was one of considerable activity in this field.

As a result of a decision by the Housing Committee to allocate 60 houses for slum clearance purposes, 62 houses in the first year's programme were represented by the Medical Officer of Health and the Corporation submitted to the Ministry proposals for 3 Clearance Areas (18 houses), 7 Compulsory Purchase Orders (36 houses) and proposals for dealing with 8 individual unfit houses. In addition, some 40 houses - comprising the remainder of our first year's programme - were inspected and it is anticipated that these will be represented early in 1957.

The year's records show that 331 houses were inspected under the Public Health Act, 1936, and that 157 premises were inspected and recorded under the provisions of the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations. In addition, no less than 1307 revisits were made to houses being dealt with under housing legislation. This latter large number of visits being accounted for by (a) work in connection with the slum clearance programme and (b) the resumption of housing repair work and the reconditioning of houses.

Some 284 houses were repaired during the year and, in a few cases, it was necessary for the Corporation to carry out work in default of the owners in respect of notices served under Sections 39 and 45 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

In connection with dwelling-houses, 226 informal notices and 32 statutory notices were served and 240 informal notices and 44 statutory notices were complied with.

One application was received for a certificate of disrepair under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and three certificates were revoked following the completion of the necessary repairs by the owners concerned.



An examination of our records shows that, since 1946, no less than 59 unfit houses have been demolished or closed and that 551 houses have been repaired or re-conditioned under the provisions of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The statistics given in this report convey some idea of the amount of time and thought given to this most important subject and, whilst a good deal of progress is recorded herein, it is certain that a very great deal still remains to be done before the general housing conditions in the Borough could be reported to be satisfactory. The remaining portion of the slum clearance programme and the repair and reconditioning of houses is, therefore, likely to be a most important priority in the duties of your Public Health Officers during the next few years.

### **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.**

The usual routine duties in respect of rodent control were carried out and, as in previous years, the Corporation continued their policy of giving a free treatment service to the occupiers of private dwellings and of making a charge for work done at business premises.

The details set out below summarise the year's work:-

#### **(a) Surface Infestations.**

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
No. of complaints received ...	130	121	117	97	81
No. of premises inspected ...	2110	1867	2214	2171	2061
No. of revisits made ...	1013	1086	1116	868	539
No. of Premises cleared ...	364	395	435	435	428
Amount of bait laid (lbs) ...	724	676	667	703	658
Actual rat bodies found ...	661	672	753	707	687

#### **(b) Sewer Infestations**

The sewers in the Borough were dealt with during the year and the results are shown in the following table:-

Month	Type of Treatment	No. of Manholes		
		Prebaited	Showing "Takes"	Poison-Baited
March	Maintenance	41	18	18
July	Special - Neithrop & Town areas only.	30	8	8
October	Test - Baiting	68	7	-
November	Maintenance	42	12	12

These results are, on the whole, satisfactory in so far as they show no serious infestation of the sewers in the Borough. A new type of poison "Antu" was used for the July treatment and, for the October and November baitings, the Ministry's latest technique was employed and all bait laid was treated with an anti-mould powder (paranitrophenol).

## FACTORIES

Increased attention was paid to the inspection of factories during the period covered by this report and 295 inspections were recorded. As a result of these inspections 38 notices were served and several improvements, mainly in respect of sanitary accommodation, were carried out - details of these being recorded on page 21 of this report.

## MILK CONTROL

As in previous years, your Public Health Inspectors carried out regular routine inspections of the dairies in the Borough and, in addition, samples of milk were taken at frequent intervals for examination for keeping quality, cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

The table given below shows the results for 1956 together with comparative figures for the four previous years:-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Samples taken . . . . .	72	64	75	82	88
Samples satisfactory . . . . .	72	62	72	76	84
Samples not satisfactory . . . . .	-	2	3	6	4

The year was something of a record in so far that it is the first year during which all samples taken were reported to be satisfactory.

Three dealers licences, under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949/54 were issued during the year and five dealers licences were granted under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949/54.

In general, the dairies were maintained in a satisfactory condition during the year and, apart from verbal requests in respect of minor contraventions, no action was necessary by your officers.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### (a) Meat Inspection

As in previous years, all animals slaughtered for human consumption in the Borough were inspected prior to sale and the following table shows the number of animals killed and inspected together with the carcasses, parts of carcasses and organs which were rejected as being unfit for human food:-

	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Slaughtered & Inspected . . . . .	1061	4912	5025	97	11095
2. Whole carcasses condemned:					
(a) Tuberculosis . . . . .	2	-	-	-	2
(b) Other Diseases . . . . .	1	2	4	4	11
3. Parts of Carcasses and organs condemned:					
(a) Tuberculosis . . . . .	55	-	117	-	182
(b) Other Diseases . . . . .	287	127	715	-	1130
(c) Cysticercosis . . . . .	12	-	-	-	12

The total weight of meat and offal rejected was approximately 5½ tons - a figure which is about the same as that recorded for 1955.

**(b) Other Foods**

In addition to the unsound meat detailed above a considerable amount of tinned foods and other unsound foodstuffs were dealt with - 95 visits of inspection being recorded for this purpose. Full details of all unsound meat and food are contained in the report of the Medical Officer of Health attached hereto.

**(c) Public Slaughterhouse**

The Public Slaughterhouse, which has been in operation since the 1st July, 1954, functioned most satisfactorily during the year and, once again, I can give nothing but praise to the manager and slaughtermen for the efficient manner in which they have performed their duties and for the high quality of the dressed carcasses they have produced.

The number of animals slaughtered was 11095 - comprising 1061 cattle, 4912 sheep, 5025 pigs and 97 calves - and the fees received for slaughtering charges, lairage fees and refrigeration charges amounted to £4083. 12. 4.

These figures show a most satisfactory increase over those for 1955 when a total of 9,100 animals were slaughtered and the receipts for the year totalled £3296 9. 0. It is, therefore, evident that the premises are being increasingly used by the butchers in the Borough and the adjoining rural areas.

As mentioned last year, there is no doubt that the public slaughterhouse is an asset to the town - both from the public health angle and from the point of view of the butchers in the area.

**(d) Slaughtermen's Licences**

During the year the licences of 8 slaughtermen were renewed and 3 new licences were granted under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

**FOOD PREMISES.**

As a result of the coming into operation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, at the beginning of the year under review, a new survey of all food premises in the Borough was commenced and, as will be seen from the information given below, substantial progress was achieved in the implementation of the new Regulations.

In general, some 1277 visits of inspection were made under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations; 115 informal requests were served for the carrying out of improvements and 136 defects or contraventions were remedied at 45 premises.



The premises at which this work was carried out comprised:-

Grocers Shops	6	Fishmongers & Greengrocers	2
Butcher Shops	8	Fried Fish Shop	1
Bakehouses	2	Clubs	1
Public Houses	9	Dairy	1
Cafes & Restaurants	6	General food premises	9

The improvements effected at the 45 premises concerned were:-

Rooms cleansed and redecorated	43
Structural repairs and improvements	12
Refuse storage facilities improved	4
Food storage facilities improved	3
Constant hot water supplies provided	17
New washing basins provided	8
New sinks provided	3
Storage facilities provided for outdoor clothing	4
Notices exhibited (re "washing of hands")	8
Sanitary conveniences improved	20
First aid outfits provided	4
Unsatisfactory food preparing premises closed	2
New food factory provided	1
Miscellaneous improvements	7

This work could not have been achieved without the willing co-operation of the food traders in the area and I must again pay tribute to those concerned for their help to us in the carrying out of this work

I would also mention the valuable educative work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during their visits to food premises - work which has been well done and which, I am certain, is well worth the extra time and trouble it entails

During the year I had the opportunity of giving talks to various bodies in the town and on each of these occasions, the opportunity was taken of stressing the food hygiene side of our work.

#### PUBLIC HOUSES.

Attention given to these premises in previous years was continued during 1956 and efforts were again made to improve the sanitary conveniences and the facilities for the proper cleansing of glasses after use. Improvements were effected in these directions at 9 premises. Since this work was commenced, a few years ago, 55 premises have been improved, sinks have been provided in, or in close proximity to bars in 26 cases, constant supplies of hot and cold water have been laid on to bar sinks at 39 premises, beer cellars have been cleansed and redecorated at 24 premises and the sanitary conveniences have received attention at 46 licensed houses. The standard of hygiene of the public houses in the Borough has, therefore, been raised very considerably during recent years



## ICE CREAM

Owing to the growing tendency for ice-cream to be supplied by a comparatively few large manufacturers, the number of samples taken was again reduced during the year. 27 such samples were obtained and, after examination, 24 samples were reported satisfactory and 3 samples failed to reach the accepted standard. 26 of the samples were manufactured outside the area and 1 sample was locally produced.

The gradings of the samples taken were:-

	Grade 1.	Grade 2.	Grade 3.	Grade 4.	Total.
Locally produced ice-cream.	1	-	-	-	1
Ice-cream made outside Banbury.	18	5	1	2	26
	19	5	1	2	27

The year's results show that 89% of the samples were reported upon favourable - a slightly higher percentage than that for 1955.

As is happening in most areas, there has been a large increase in the number of persons retailing ice-cream since the war and, last year, 3 further premises were registered for the sale of the commodity.

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE  
DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS AND ORDERS  
FOR THE YEAR 1956.**

**To the Worshipful the Mayor, the Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Banbury**

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have again the privilege of submitting to you my annual report on the administration of the Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders in the Borough for the year 1956

Although we were exceptionally fortunate in that no outbreaks of scheduled diseases occurred in the Borough during the year, the duties carried out by the Department continued to increase and our work, in this connection, has become a most important part of the responsibilities falling upon my section of the Public Health Department.

The local cattle market continues to grow year by year and, as it is now probably the largest in the Country, it will be evident to the members of the Corporation that a very considerable amount of work and responsibility falls upon your officers. Constant vigilance, a large amount of detail work and a great measure of tact are called for in the carrying out of these duties and I must pay tribute to the work of the staff, particularly Mr. George Stevens - the full-time Inspector under the Acts and Orders - for their conscientious and efficient work in this connection

It is only right, I feel, that I should stress the pressure which is put upon the Department by these duties particularly as the work is increasing all the time and, at the time of preparing this report, it seems certain that our responsibilities will tend to increase rather than diminish in the future. The appointment of a full-time Inspector for this work, which was made in 1954, has been of considerable assistance but the growth of the market since that time has meant that the Public Health Inspectors have still to devote a good deal of time to the various duties connected with Diseases of Animals Act administration

The statistics and comments given below will illustrate the point made in this brief introduction and will, no doubt, be of interest to the members of the Corporation.

**(1) Anthrax and Sheep Scab**

No outbreak of either of these diseases was reported during 1956

**(2) Swine Fever**

Swine fever was again very prevalent in various parts of the country and in areas in close proximity to Banbury but, fortunately, no actual outbreak occurred in the Borough.

Once again very close liason was maintained with the Divisional Veterinary officer and we were able to give some assistance to that officer in the tracing of pigs which had passed through the local market.

### **(3) Foot and Mouth Disease.**

Although no cases of this disease occurred locally or in the immediate vicinity, there were several outbreaks in the country during the year and it was necessary for your officers to serve several notices of detention in respect of contact animals. In this work again, close co-operation was maintained with the Ministry's Officers throughout the year.

### **(4) Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1954.**

The number of licences issued authorising the movement of swine from the cattle market to private premises and the number of animals involved is given in the following table together with comparative figures for the last four years:-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
Licences issued	3,519	2,585	2,974	2,653	2,042
No. of animals involved	49,836	28,573	22,950	17,968	11,418

These figures are illustrative of the growth of this section of the market during recent years.

Seven contraventions of the Order were reported to the appropriate Committee of the Corporation and, as six of these cases were first offences, the persons responsible were cautioned by the Town Clerk. In the other case, legal proceedings were instituted and a fine of £8. 0. 0. with £3. 2. 0. costs was imposed. In addition to these cases, nine cautions were administered by the Inspectors in respect of minor contraventions of the Order.

### **(5) Importation of Animals.**

628 licences were received during the year authorising the movement of 28,120 Irish Cattle from the port of landing to the local market and these cattle were re-licenced to private premises - thus involving the issue of 1,344 licences.

Sales of Irish Cattle were held fortnightly during the year - the market being licenced for the holding of such sales on Fridays - and, as mentioned last year, these sales have become a regular feature of the market.

The number of licences issued and the number of animals licenced thereby during 1956 and previous years is given below:-

	<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>
Licences issued	1,344	1,655	1,639	182
Animals involved	28,120	31,914	31,232	3,297

Two cautions were issued by the Town Clerk in respect of offences in connection with the movement of Irish Cattle and seven warnings were given by the Inspectors in respect of contraventions of the Order.



**(6) Sheep Dipping.**

The number of sheep dipped in the Borough during 1956 was 1,671 and, in each case, a single type dip was used. New Regulations, made under the Sheep Scab Order of 1938 and the Sheep Scab (Amendment) Order of 1948 are now in operation in the Borough - these Regulations being in accord with similar Regulations operative in the rest of the county.

**(7) Transit of Animals - Cleansing and Disinfection of Vehicles.**

During 1956 a total of 7,180 vehicles used for the conveyance of animals were cleansed and disinfected at the Corporation's cleansing station at the cattle market. This figure gives a weekly average of 138 vehicles, as compared with 129 vehicles per week during the previous year. The income received by the Corporation for this work was £538 10.0 - an increase of £31. 13 0. as compared with the previous year.

As in previous years, strict supervision over the cleansing of vehicles was maintained and it was only necessary for the Inspectors to issue four cautions in respect of contraventions of the Order.

**(8) The Live Poultry (Restriction) Order.**

As has happened during recent years, the sale of poultry at the market was under restriction throughout the period and the auctioneers were licenced to enable them to hold weekly sales of poultry intended for immediate slaughter, within the precincts of the market. In addition, they were licenced to hold sales of store poultry on premises adjoining, but not within, the market premises. The various sales were kept under observation throughout the year and, in the case of any minor offences detected, offenders were cautioned by your Inspectors.

**(9) The Markets, Sales and Lairs (Amendment) Order, 1926**

Constant attention was given to the market and the Railway Siding Pens during the year in respect of the above-mentioned order and 252 routine inspections of the premises were carried out for this purpose. As a result of these inspections it was necessary for your Inspector to issue four cautions in respect of unsatisfactory cleansing of pens in the market and one caution in connection with a similar offence at the Railway Siding pens.

The new cleansing facilities, provided by the owners of the market and mentioned in my last report, have been of great service in maintaining the market in a satisfactory state of cleanliness and, on the whole, the cleansing and disinfection of the premises between sales has been carried out satisfactorily - particularly having regard to the tremendous amount of stock passing through the premises.

**(10) Fowl Pest**

No cases of this disease were reported in the Borough during 1956.



(11) General

In concluding this report, I would again express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Bath Parks and Markets Committee for their support, courtesy and encouragement during another very busy year. I would also express appreciation of the services of my staff for their willing work during the year and, finally, I am indebted to Col J C Bennison, F R C V.S., D.V.S.M., the Ministry's Divisional Inspector and his staff for their help and co-operation at all times.

I am Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. APPLEYARD D.P.A. (Lond)., F.R.S.H.

Inspector under the Diseases  
of Animals Acts and Orders.

April, 1957.





